

To: Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thur 4/10/2014 10:15:23 PM
Subject: Re: OPA Daily Digest 4/4/14

The morning and afternoon send outs are per Karl's request. I don't think they go to entire DD distro list. Previously we didn't do morning and afternoon clips.

DD goes to SS and Deputies and gets posted to LAN for entire region.

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 4:44:02 PM
To: Washburn, Ben
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 4/4/14

Do you know why we add the news clips in here since we've already sent them out via the 2x daily clips? I'm trying to get a feel for why we do so many daily reports and who they go to, etc.

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 8:52 AM
To: Carey, Curtis
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 4/4/14

Good morning Curtis,

The report is pulled together from a template. It's a team effort, really. Anyone in OPA can, and does, add to this. Whichever press officer takes an inquiry logs it. Whichever press officer puts out a press release, logs it. Same with fact sheets, or events in the OPA section. Press clips are usually put in by Dave. When he is out it is usually a combination of me and Emily.

Program offices send over their events to be entered in the events section. I add those.

At the end of each day, I review the Digest and distribute it. I then "reset" the template for the next day. Inquiries that are marked as "open" stay on for the next day's digest. Those that are

closed are removed. I'd say that each day the Digest takes no more than 30 minutes of my time. On slow days, it can be less than that.

Hope your trip is going well – all is well here. Had a nice weekend with some decent temperatures!

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

(913) 551-7364

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 6:30 AM
To: Washburn, Ben
Subject: Re: OPA Daily Digest 4/4/14

Ben,

Hope all is well! Say, how do you pull this report together? I am wondering about process and the amount of time, etc.

Thanks,
Curtis

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2014 4:53:45 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 4/4/14

OPA Daily Digest for 4/4/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Mark Warner (Va.) – Letter – 3/27/14: Constituent concerns about the closing of the Doe Run Company in Herculaneum. Due: 4/7/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 4/1/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Darin Copeland – 4/3/14: Questions about flooding near the Hematite Former Fuel Cycle Facility, a closed nuclear material processing facility under authority of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in Hematite, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - FOUL: A polluter-protection law? Say it taint so - 4/3/14 - Missouri does not need a state polluter-protection law, regardless of how much “good-faith compliance” the polluters have made with state and federal environmental laws. There’s too much wiggle-room in the phrase “good-faith compliance.”
http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/foul-a-polluter-protection-law-say-it-taint-so/article_88899ae7-a28a-5d7d-9a85-fe16e394622c.html

Des Moines Register - Vilsack: EPA facing challenges on ethanol mandate - 4/3/14 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Thursday a recent uptick in gasoline consumption should be considered by the Environmental Protection Agency when it determines how much renewable fuels should be blended into the motor fuel supply this year. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/green-fields/2014/04/03/vilsack-ethanol-mandate-epa-challenges/7269993/>

Des Moines Register - Vilsack: Fuel trend should guide EPA ethanol ruling - 4/4/14 - Agriculture Secretary

Tom Vilsack said Thursday a recent uptick in gasoline consumption should be considered by the Environmental Protection Agency when it determines how much renewable fuel should be blended into the motor fuel supply this year. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/04/04/epa-ethanol-fuel-blend-vilsack/7290465/>

Quad-City Times - Brooks: Help EPA set rules for creek protection - 4/4/14 - Rivers and streams – the Mississippi, Blackhawk Creek, Duck Creek, Goose Creek, and Crow Creek – along with a network of tributaries and nearby wetlands, are important to the Quad-City area's water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, and flood abatement. http://qctimes.com/news/opinion/mailbag/help-epa-set-rules-for-creek-protection/article_84ddacb3-7421-5f27-b089-f82c7bfccedd.html

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Brooks: Clarifying water protection - 4/4/14 - Local rivers and streams — the Cedar, Iowa and Wapsipinicon rivers, and Indian Creek and Prairie Creek — along with tributaries and nearby wetlands, are important to the Cedar Rapids area's water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, and flood abatement. <http://thegazette.com/2014/04/04/clarifying-water-protection/>

The Hays Daily News - Brooks: Not merely water under the bridge - 4/3/14 - Local rivers in Kansas -- such as the Kaw, Arkansas, Smoky Hill, Solomon, Neosho and Ninneseah -- along with their network of tributaries and wetlands, are important to Kansas water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat and flood abatement. <http://hdnews.net/opinion/karlb Brooks040314>

Nebraska Radio Network - Sen. Johanns wants EPA to conduct job impact analysis - 4/3/14 - Nebraska U-S Senator Mike Johanns is co-sponsoring a bill that would require the Environmental Protection Agency to follow through with a required job impact analysis of its regulations before implementing any major new rules. <http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2014/04/03/sen-johanns-wants-epa-to-conduct-job-impact-analysis/>

Daily Iowegian - Grassley: Environmental Protection Agency have jurisdiction on waterways? - 4/3/14 - Changes to this federal rule may open a can of worms for farmers. Would farm ponds, drainage ditches, culverts, dams and dry creek beds fall under the EPA lens? Would farmers need costly environmental assessments and permits before they start work in their fields? These are legitimate questions that deserve valid answers. <http://www.dailyiowegian.com/letters/x539826103/Q-A-Environmental-Protection-Agency-have-jurisdiction-on-waterways>

Topeka Capital-Journal (Kan.) - Brownback calls aquifer conservation 'great American problem' - 4/2/14 - Gov. Sam Brownback said Wednesday that Kansans will have to be more mindful of environmental concerns going forward to preserve the state's fresh water supply. <http://cjonline.com/news/2014-04-02/brownback-calls-aquifer-conservation-great-american-problem>

Newton Daily News (Kan.) - Grassley: Wind energy empowers America - 4/1/14 - Momentum is building to

extend expired tax provisions that lapsed Dec. 31. Of the 55 expired tax breaks on the table, wind energy incentives are among those left hanging. <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2014/04/01/wind-energy-empowers-america/and4xob/>

Columbus Telegram (Neb.) - ADM paying penalty for air quality violations - 4/4/13 - Archer Daniels Midland Company will pay a \$20,000 penalty to settle a state complaint claiming the company violated Nebraska air quality regulations. http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/adm-paying-penalty-for-air-quality-violations/article_f21dafcc-0079-53a2-a6f0-af9f06cf09d4.html

St. Louis American - EPA to host public meeting about Carter Carburetor site next Thursday - 4/4/14 - EPA Region 7 will host a public meeting from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10 at the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, 2901 N. Grand Ave., to provide the latest information about the cleanup of the Carter Carburetor Superfund Site near the club. http://www.stlamERICAN.com/news/local_news/article_0c8feb2-bbfd-11e3-876b-0019bb2963f4.html

Wall Street Journal - Rail Fails Hurt U.S. Ethanol and Coal - 4/4/13 - Ethanol prices are riding high, because the fermented fuel just can't get to where it needs to be. A major snarl in railroad traffic that is ricocheting through the supply chains of businesses across the U.S. is preventing ethanol from reaching the coastal refineries that mix it with gasoline. <http://blogs.wsj.com/moneybeat/2014/04/04/rail-fails-hurt-u-s-ethanol-and-coal/>

Domestic Fuel - Oil Spills & Contaminated Gas – Ethanol Takes On API - 4/4/14 - A recent edition of the New York Times and Politico have published what the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) and Growth Energy are calling “good-humored, but factual takedown of Big Oil’s false, hypocritical attacks against clean, renewable ethanol.” <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/04/03/oil-spills-contaminated-gas-ethanol-takes-on-api/>

News-Leader, Springfield, Mo. - Branson man accused of falsifying wastewater reports - 4/3/14 - A Branson man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly falsifying reports on wastewater that eventually was discharged into Table Rock Lake. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/crime/2014/04/03/branson-man-accused-falsifying-wastewater-reports/7250455/>

Des Moines Register - Cedar Rapids, Keokuk report wastewater spills - 4/3/13 - Two Iowa cities reported wastewater spills today, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said. One was in Cedar Rapids and one in Keokuk. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2014/04/03/cedar-rapids-keokuk-wasterwater-spills-dnr/7264957/>

Kansas Health Institute - KDHE spokesperson leaving for new job with KanCare MCO - 4/3/14 - Miranda Steele, the spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is leaving the agency for a new job with Sunflower State Health Plan, one of the state's three KanCare contractors. <http://www.khi.org/news/2014/apr/01/kdhe-spokesperson-leaving-new-job-kancare-mco/>

EcoWatch - Rep. Pompeo to Introduce Koch-Funded, Monsanto-Backed, Voluntary GMO Food Labeling Bill - 4/4/14 - Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) will introduce legislation this month backed by the Grocery Manufacturers Association—including biotech giant Monsanto and Koch Industries—that would establish a voluntary labeling system for food made with genetically modified organisms (GMO), according to an industry insider. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/04/04/pompeo-koch-monsanto-gmo-label-bill/>

St. Louis Public Radio - NAACP Report Calls For Bolstered Renewable Energy Production - 4/3/14 - A report from the NAACP says Missouri should increase production of renewable power and require utilities to offer energy efficiency programs. <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/naacp-report-calls-bolstered-renewable-energy-production>

Pella Chronicle (Iowa) - EPA names Pella Corp 2014 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year - 4/3/14 - Pella Corporation earned the coveted ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year 2014 award, presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its outstanding contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by manufacturing energy-efficient windows and educating consumers about energy efficiency. <http://www.pellachronicle.com/breakingnews/x1984807591/EPA-names-Pella-Corp-2014-ENERGY-STAR-Partner-of-the-Year>

Bloomberg - DSM to Make Biofuel by July as EPA Considers Mandate Cut - 4/2/14 - Royal DSM NV (DSM) expects to begin producing cellulosic ethanol in Emmetsburg, Iowa, by July as the government considers reducing the amount of renewable fuel that oil companies will be required to buy. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-04-02/dsm-to-make-biofuel-by-july-as-epa-considers-mandate-cut.html>

Lincoln Journal Star (Neb.) - FDA proposal could hurt brewers, farmers - 4/3/14 - Breweries in Nebraska say a federal proposal would force them to stop giving spent grains to local farmers to use as cattle feed. http://journalstar.com/news/local/fda-proposal-could-hurt-brewers-farmers/article_942aff21-5a6c-5e12-81ba-ea8d678454d4.html

Hays Daily News - Failing facilities to blame for fine, city officials say - 4/4/14 - The \$18,000 federal fine confronting the city of Hays for violations at the wastewater treatment plant is a symptom of a possible \$20 to \$35 million problem. The aging plant and the prospect of stricter federal regulations led to failed experiments intended to lower levels of nitrates, ammonia, and phosphates in the plant's discharge. <http://hdnews.net/news/city040414>

Brownfield Ag News - RFA takes railroads to task - 4/4/14 - The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) is taking the nation's railroads to task for creating what RFA calls "oil-induced rail chaos." <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/04/04/rfa-takes-railroads-task/>

Newsroom America - EPA News Release (Region 7): Pella Corporation Receives 2014 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award - 4/3/14 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have selected the Pella Corporation of Pella, Iowa, for a 2014 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award.
<http://www.newsroomamerica.com/story/415308.html>

Associated Press - Lawmakers push EPA for more time on water rule - 4/4/13 - Industry groups and more than a dozen GOP senators are urging the Obama administration to reconsider plans to regulate many of the nation's streams and wetlands, saying the proposed rule hurts economic activity and oversteps legal bounds.
<http://www.kwwl.com/story/25160485/lawmakers-push-epa-for-more-time-on-water-rule>

Associated Press - Fire fight: Lawmakers push EPA to ax stove rules - 4/3/14 - Wood-burning stoves have ignited a debate between the Obama administration and South Dakota lawmakers who oppose new regulations that would require more efficiency from an iconic feature of many rural homes.
<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/business/energy/article/Fire-fight-Lawmakers-push-EPA-to-ax-stove-rules-5373450.php>

also Argus Leader (Sioux City, Iowa)

Fox News - GOP lawmakers push EPA to ax proposed water rule amid outcry from farmers - 4/4/14 - More than a dozen Republican lawmakers are pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider asserting regulatory authority over streams and wetlands amid intense backlash from farm groups over the agency's proposed water rule. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/04/04/gop-lawmaker-moves-to-block-epa-water-proposal-amid-outcry-from-farmers/>

Drovers CattleNetwork - EPA's proposed water rules pose serious threat to ag producers - 4/2/14 - "Last week, the American Farm Bureau Federation carefully reviewed EPA's March 25 release of the 'waters of the U.S.' proposed rule. The results of our review are dismaying. <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/253621101.html>

For Construction Pros - US EPA Proposes Dramatic Expansion of Clean Water Act Regulation - 4/3/14 - On March 27, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers released a draft proposed rule that would significantly broaden the definition of "waters of the United States" for protection under the Clean Water Act (CWA). http://www.forconstructionpros.com/press_release/11373436/us-epa-proposes-dramatic-expansion-of-clean-water-act-regulation

Ag Professional - Commentary: EPA's water police: Coming to your farm? - 4/3/14 - The language which concerns so many groups in agriculture is that EPA believes that all bodies of water are somehow physically, chemically and biologically connected to downstream Waters of the United States.
<http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Commentary-EPAs-water-police-Coming-to-your-farm-253753531.html>

USA Today - Column: 3 myths on our natural gas boom - 4/3/14 - For all the coverage America's energy boom has gotten, there are still a lot of common assumptions about the oil and natural gas business that are flat out wrong. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/04/03/oil-gas-united-states-jobs-energy-boom-column/7273289/>

Associated Press - Bill extends tax breaks for wind farms, filmmakers - 4/3/14 - Wind farms, NASCAR tracks and filmmakers would keep their treasured tax breaks as part of an \$85 billion package of temporary tax cuts passed by a key Senate committee Thursday. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/04/03/4934446/bill-extends-tax-breaks-for-wind.html>

CleanTechnica - US Wind Energy Is Breaking Records - 4/4/14 - Wind energy is breaking records across the U.S., thanks to long-needed transmission upgrades that are relieving congestion on the power grid and allowing more clean energy to reach consumers. <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/04/03/u-s-wind-energy-breaking-records/>

National Geographic - Fuel Cells Power Up: Three Surprising Places Where Hydrogen Energy Is Working - 4/4/14 - Hydrogen may not be fueling many cars, but it is delivering clean power for warehouses, data centers, and telcom towers. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2014/04/140403-fuel-cells-hydrogen-wal-mart-stationary/>

CNN - Could wind turbines tame hurricanes? - 4/2/14 - A Stanford study says there may be something that could stand in a hurricane's way. Quite literally. It's not some brand new technology or hypothetical machine we are talking about. It's wind turbines. <http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2014/04/02/could-wind-turbines-tame-hurricanes/>

Forbes - What E.On And Other Energy Firms Want: Solar Investments - 4/4/14 - Sungevity, a venture-backed residential solar company in California, said Friday that it recently raised \$70 million in equity. But that's not the most interesting part of the announcement. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/uciliawang/2014/04/04/4298/>

Washington Times - EPA hijacking energy policy, GOP critics say - 4/3/14 - House Republicans accused the Department of Energy of abandoning pro-energy initiatives and instead yielding to the Obama administration's environmentalist and climate-change agenda. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/apr/3/epa-hijacking-energy-policy-gop-critics-say/>

PolitiFact.Com - Has the EPA called Koch brothers businesses a 'model' company for a clean environment? - 4/4/14 - "EPA officials have commended (Koch Industries) for our 'commitment to a cleaner environment' and called us 'a model for other companies.'" <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2014/apr/04/charles-koch/epa-koch-brothers-business-environment/>

Domestic Fuel - ACE: Blend Wall Cost Reporting Wrong - 4/4/14 - Several recent media reports have reported that the “blend wall” cost refiners nearly \$1.35 billion last year. Ron Lamberty, senior vice president for the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) called them “incomplete and misleading.”

<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/04/04/ace-blend-wall-cost-reporting-wrong/>

Domestic Fuel - Extenders Package Picks up Wind - 4/4/14 - After quite a bit of back and forth, the Senate Finance Committee finally included wind energy in the renewable energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC) tax extenders package out of committee this week.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/04/04/extenders-package-picks-up-wind/>

Wall Street Journal Marketwatch - Wind-energy production credit breezes into tax ‘extenders’ bill - 4/3/14 - A tax credit for wind-energy production made it after all into a Senate bill that would revive a host of expired breaks for numerous industries. <http://blogs.marketwatch.com/capitolreport/2014/04/03/wind-energy-production-credit-breezes-into-tax-extenders-bill/>

House Energy & Commerce Committee (release) - Members Question Obama EPA Administrator McCarthy Over Budget and Agenda - 4/2/14 - The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittees held a joint hearing to review EPA’s Fiscal Year 2015 budget request. Members questioned EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on EPA’s budget request and a range of activities within the agency’s purview. <http://energycommerce.house.gov/press-release/members-question-obama-epa-administrator-mccarthy-over-budget-and-agenda>

Chemical & Engineering News - Affirming Impacts Of Climate Change - 4/3/14 - Around the globe, human-caused climate change has affected farming, water supplies, and ecosystems on land and in water, says a new United Nations report. The IPCC Report probes effects, adaptation, and vulnerabilities related to global warming.

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/i14/Affirming-Impacts-Climate-Change.html>

E&E Daily - Regulators vow to decide on tanker truck regs within months - 4/3/14 - The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration will decide within the next few months on proceeding with new tank truck regulations after an outside review raised questions about the cost-benefit analysis used to justify them, the agency's chief said yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059997239/>

Climate Central - Mind the Fracking Data Gap, Study Says - 4/3/14 - Scientists have long expressed concern about how a lack of data and access to drilling sites prevents a complete scientific assessment of how hydraulic fracturing and oil and gas production affect the climate, environment and public health.

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/study-highlights-lack-of-fracking-research-data-17251>

EcoWatch - Congress: Protect Public Health, Not Toxic Chemicals - 4/4/14 - For decades, U.S. manufacturers—with the federal government's blessing—have been producing tens of thousands of untested, potentially toxic chemicals, many of which wind up in our bodies. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/04/04/congress-protect-public-not-toxic-chemicals/>

ClimateWire - Costs rise again at Kemper carbon capture and storage plant - 4/3/14 - The first coal plant in the United States that would capture a majority of its carbon dioxide continues to get more expensive. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997230/>

ClimateWire - McCarthy uses budget hearing to highlight state-federal collaboration - 4/3/14 - U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy yesterday emphasized her agency's coordination with states, a step that will be crucial as EPA's seeks to implement greenhouse gas regulations on the nation's fleet of electric plants. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997253/>

ClimateWire - Grid improvements help powerful storm electrify the Southwest - 4/4/14 - Wind energy production in Texas and adjacent states Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska set one-day records last month. Turbines generated nearly 10,300 megawatts of electricity across the Electric Reliability Council of Texas' (ERCOT) grid March 26. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997328/>

ClimateWire - More truck fleet owners convert to natural gas, but will it stay cheap? - 4/4/14 -

For companies to shift their vehicle fleets off conventional petroleum products to cleaner fuels and efficient technologies, managers must have confidence that they will be able to recover their sunk costs. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997347/>

ClimateWire - More truck fleet owners convert to natural gas, but will it stay cheap? - 4/4/14 -conventional petroleum products to cleaner fuels and efficient technologies, managers must have confidence that they will be able to recover their sunk costs. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997347/>

ClimateWire - Utilities get the solution to their rooftop solar problem: 'Stop worrying and love the bomb' - 4/4/14 - Distributed generation presents a substantial change from business as usual to utilities and regulators around the country. There are varying degrees of acceptance. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997350/>

E&E Daily - U.N. report explores bioenergy's potential for pulling CO2 out of the air - 4/3/14 - Pushing the needle back on billowing carbon dioxide emissions may be necessary to avoid catastrophic warming. But for those who are squeamish about drastically engineering the climate by seeding algae blooms or spraying aerosols to form clouds, scientists are exploring the concept of negative emissions. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059997251>

E&E Daily - Jewell defends climate 'deniers' remark, fracking regs in House budget hearing - 4/4/14 - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell yesterday said agency employees face no "litmus test" for their views on global warming but argued that anyone who has visited federal lands will see that climate change is real.

<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059997331>

Forbes - Supporting Women To Solve Our Big Environmental Challenges - 4/4/14 - It's a textbook case of the tragedy of the commons: farmers, municipalities, and water and electric companies around the world have freely drawn water from local rivers. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/ashoka/2014/04/03/supporting-women-to-solve-our-big-environmental-challenges/>

Washington Times - EPA hijacking energy policy, GOP critics say - 4/3/14 - House Republicans accused the Department of Energy of abandoning pro-energy initiatives and instead yielding to the Obama administration's environmentalist and climate-change agenda. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/apr/3/epa-hijacking-energy-policy-gop-critics-say/>

Midwest Energy News - Studies: Efficiency still the cheapest energy resource - 4/4/14 - Energy efficiency remains far cheaper – especially in the Midwest – than investing in additional generation. That's the case even in states where a long history of energy-efficiency has pushed up the cost of squeezing out additional savings. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/04/04/studies-efficiency-still-the-cheapest-energy-resource/>

Wall Street Journal - Exxon Agrees to Disclose Fracking Risks - 4/4/14 - Exxon Mobil Corp. agreed to publicly disclose more details on the risks of hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas wells, reversing a long-held opposition after negotiations with environmental groups and investors. <http://tinyurl.com/ExxonWSJ>

Bakken Breakout (blog) - Ethanol producers complain about rail service - 4/4/14 - Ethanol producers say clogged rail lines and other shipping problems have forced them to reduce production of the fuel and contributed to higher prices. The Renewable Fuels Association criticized railroads Thursday and triggered a strong response from the Association of American Railroads. http://bismarcktribune.com/bakken/ethanol-producers-complain-about-rail-service/article_33ece650-bb6c-11e3-bee1-001a4bcf887a.html

Filtration+Separation - Massive cost savings found through technical innovation - 4/1/14 - Lower energy costs, improved operational efficiency and reduced environmental impact found in a 21st century version of traditional technology. <http://www.filtsep.com/view/37760/massive-cost-savings-found-through-technical-innovation/>

Huffington Post - Wind Power Has Cut U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions By 4.4 Percent: Report - 4/4/14 - The

growth of wind power in the United States is putting a significant dent in emissions, according to a forthcoming report from the American Wind Energy Association. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/04/wind-power-emissions_n_5087308.html

The Economist - The UN, EPA, And The Latest Climate Change Folly - 4/4/14 - When writing about the IMF last week, I mentioned that bureaucracies tend to do everything possible to perpetuate themselves. So it is with the United Nations and the Environmental Protection Agency.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/markhendrickson/2014/04/04/the-un-epa-and-the-latest-climate-change-folly/>

Domestic Fuel - ACORE Releases Renewable Energy in America Outlook - 4/4/14 - The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) has released The Outlook for Renewable Energy in America: 2014, jointly authored by U.S. renewable energy trade associations from the power, thermal, and fuel sectors.
<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/04/04/acore-releases-renewable-energy-in-america-outlook/>

E&E News PM - Industry group slams railroads over 'abject failure' to deliver product - 4/3/14 - The ethanol industry today sent a biting letter to the Association of American Railroads seeking answers on the rail delays that have hampered the industry in recent weeks. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059997308/>

BNA - Panelists Say No Separate EPA Rules Needed for Direct Potable Reuse of Water - 4/3/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency should refrain from developing rules specifically addressing potable reused water, panelists said at an American Water Works Association meeting in Denver.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43988993&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8n0e3x7&split=0

BNA - Senate Committee Approves Bill Providing Inspection of Above-Ground Chemical Tanks - 4/3/14 - Senate environment committee approves bill to set minimum construction standards and other requirements for chemical storage sites located near sources of drinking water.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43988979&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8m9v8f8&split=0

BNA - Separate Standards Needed for Trucks That Use Natural Gas, Research Council Says - 4/3/14 - The National Research Council recommended that the Obama administration set a separate standard for natural gas vehicles as it develops its second round of greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy standards for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43988970&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8m8u2u7&split=0

BNA - Power Plant Regulations Could Cause 'Lot' of Shutdown in Coal Fleet, Capito Says - 4/3/14 - Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) told Bloomberg BNA she expects the Environmental Protection Agency's carbon dioxide regulations for existing power plants to cause "a lot" of shutdown in the nation's coal fleet.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43988985&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8n0b8t7&split=0

BNB - Senate Panel Passes Brownfields Bill To Authorize \$250 Million Annually in Grants - 4/3/14 - The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bipartisan bill by voice vote April 3 that would reauthorize the federal brownfields program at \$250 million annually through 2016.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43988983&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8m9x2g9&split=0

BNB - EPA Commits to Work Closely With States On Backlog of Implementation Plans - 4/3/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has committed to take action over the next four years on the backlog of implementation plans that states have submitted to the agency. <http://tinyurl.com/SIPScommitment>

BNB - Backup Emergency Generator Rule Unlikely to Increase Emissions, Groups Say - 4/3/14 - Trade groups, electrical associations and energy services companies asked a federal appeals court to side with the Environmental Protection Agency and affirm a 2013 rule that allows backup emergency generators to operate up to 100 hours a year without using pollution controls.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43988977&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8m9t4v9&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Wins Record Bankruptcy Settlement - 4/3/14 - EPA and the Justice Department (DOJ) are touting a precedent-setting \$5.15 billion settlement with Kerr-McGee Corp. for environmental cleanup costs after a U.S. bankruptcy court found it fraudulently conveyed assets to a new parent company to evade its debts.

<http://insideepa.com/201404032466463/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-wins-record-bankruptcy-settlement/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - Senators Revive Wind Tax Credit As Opponents Push For Ending Incentive - 4/3/14 - Senators have approved adding language to a tax "extenders" package that would revive for two years a production tax credit (PTC) for wind power and other renewable energy. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201404032466464/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/senators-revive-wind-tax-credit-as-opponents-push-for-ending-incentive/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - In Reversal, DOJ Backs Environmentalists' Standing In NEPA Climate Suit - 4/4/14 - The Obama administration is dropping its opposition to environmentalists' ability to challenge the adequacy of environmental assessments conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on climate change grounds. <http://insideepa.com/201404042466549/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/in-reversal-doj-backs-environmentalists-standing-in-nepa-climate-suit/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Vows To Improve Human Testing Policies - 4/3/14 - EPA is vowing to improve its policies to ensure protection of humans involved in scientific testing such as exposure to particulate matter (PM) emissions, following an Inspector General (IG) report that found while the agency meets rules on such testing it should update its policies to better protect participants' health and inform them of the risks in testing.

<http://insideepa.com/201404032466424/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-vows-to-improve-human-testing-policies/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

***4/21/14** – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Luetta Flournoy, 7653

4/22/14 – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/22/14 – Interview with KSHB-TV, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

***4/29/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

4/30/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

4/30/14 – Westar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Rebecca Weber, 7487

5/1/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

5/1/14 – Meet with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, Richard Fordyce, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

***5/5-6/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

5/12/14 – Meet with ICCI Representatives, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

***5/12-13/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

***5/20-21/14** – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***6/5/14** – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

***6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

***7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

3/25-4/4/14 – Environmental Council of the States Conference, Sausalito, Calif. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

4/4/14 – Mid-America Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

***4/21/14** – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Luetta Flournoy, 7653

***5/20-21/14** – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

***7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy School Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

3/31-4/4/14 - Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act Enforcement Managers and Toxics Enforcement Managers meeting, Seattle, Wash. Contacts: Jamie Green, 7139, Royan Teter, 7609

***4/8-9/14** – 4 State TMDL Meeting at RO, Lenexa, Kan. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Debby White, 7886

***4/15-16/14** – Kansas Induced Seismicity Stakeholder Meeting, Wichita, Kan. Contact: David Garrett, 7798

***4/15-16/14** – 4 State Program Meetings for Non-Point Source, Source Water Protection, and Drinking Water at RO, Lenexa, Kan. Contacts: Mary Mindrup, 7431, Ken Deason, 7585

4/28-5/4/14 – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

5/5-8/14 – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

5/12-16/14 – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts:
Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886